

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 13 have been cancelled by the present amendment. Claims 3-5 and 8 were objected to for the reason noted on page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 1, 4, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beery '560. Claims 1, 12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Allen et al. '575. Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. '575.

Claims 2, 3, 7-11, 13 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to the above claims.

With reference to the objection to claims 3-5 and 8 as noted on page 2 of the Office Action, the claims have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner.

With reference to the rejection of claims 1, 4, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beery '560; the rejection of claims 1, 12, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Allen et al. '575; and the rejection of claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. '575, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, the claims have been amended in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims by way of a continuation application.

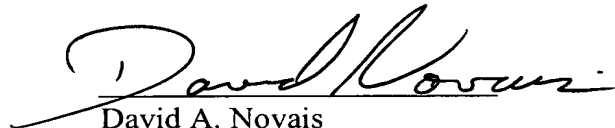
More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable; claim 3 which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable has been amended to be in independent form and include the limitations of original independent claim 1; claim 7 which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable has been amended to be in independent form and include the limitations of original claim 1; claim 11 which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable has been amended to be in independent form and include the limitations of original claim 1; claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 13 which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable; and claim 16 which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable has been amended to be in independent form and include the limitations of original claim 12.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 7, 11, 12 and 16 are allowable over the applied references.

Additionally, claims 4-6 which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1; claims 8-10 which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 7; and claims 14-15 which depend from claim 12 are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the inventions defined by each of claims 1, 3-12 and 14-16 are patentable, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. If any issues remain that require further consideration, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss these issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Novais", written in dark ink.

David A. Novais
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 33,324

DAN/jrk
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-588-2727
Facsimile: 585-477-1148

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.